

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

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P R 230919Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3492

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T JAKARTA 9083

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ID

SUBJ: PROPOSED CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO

REFS: A) JAKARTA 8769; B) STATE 156326 (NOTAL)

MANILA FOR ALDRICH

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER THAJEB TOLD ME JUNE 22 HE HAD RAISED WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO POSSIBILITY MY SEEING HIM IN NEAR FUTURE. THAJEB SAID SUHARTO READILY AGREED TO EARLY MEETING BUT SAID HE WISHED TO AWAIT RESULTS OF INDONESIAN CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE IN HONG KONG WHERE VIETNAM IS PRICIPAL TOPIC.
2. THAJEB'S REPLY SUGGESTS PRESIDENT MAY WELL RAISE WITH ME POSSIBILITY FURTHER REDUCTION IN SIZE OF INDONESIAN CONTINGENT IN ICCS (CURRENTLY NUMBERING ABOUT 200) AND RELATED QUESTION COST OF CONTINUED INDONESIAN PARTICIPATION.
3. SUBJECT DEPARTMENT'S FURTHER ADVICE, I WOULD, IF THESE SUBJECTS RAISED, PROPOSE REPLY AS FOLLOWS:

A. WE CONTINUE ATTACH MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO PRESENCE OF ICCS THROUGHOUT SOUTH VIETNAM. WE WOULD STRONGLY HOPE

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INDONESIAN COULD MAINTAIN PRESENT STRENGTH BUT IF READJUST-

MENT IS NECESSARY, WOULD HOPE EMPHASIS COULD BE PLACED ON CONTINUED MANNING OF ALL CURRENT ICCS LOCATIONS (AS DISTINGUISHED FROM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF IN SAIGON).

B. CURRENT FINACIAL PROBLEMS OF ICCS STEM FROM COMMUNIST FAILURE FULFILL OBLIGATIONS TOWARD BUDGET. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL INTERESTED IN CONTINUED PRESENCE OF ICCS NOT PERMIT THIS COMMUNIST OBSTRUCTION HAMPER CURRENT OPRATIONS EVEN IF IT MEANS SOME FURTHER FINANCIAL SACRIFICE. WE ARE PLEASED AT CONTINUING INDONESIAN RECOGNITION OF IMPORTANCE ICCS AND WE WOULD HOPE INDONESIA COULD FIND MEANS OF MEETING COSTS DURING THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD.

C. IF DIRECT QUESTION OF U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO INDONESIAN COSTS SHOULD BE RAISED, I WOULD PROPOSE TOSTATE THAT WE BELIEVE PEACEKEEPING OBLIGATION INS ONE OF INTEREST TO ALL INVOLVED AND WHICH SHOULD BE SHARED BY ALL INVOLVED. INDONESIAN PEACEKEEPING ROLE IS CERTAINLY ONE OF IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WHICH WE HAVE VERY MUCH IN MIND IN OUR DESIRE TO CONTINUE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE CONCESSIONAL ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.
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